Ufford PUNCH

Issue 327

April 2024

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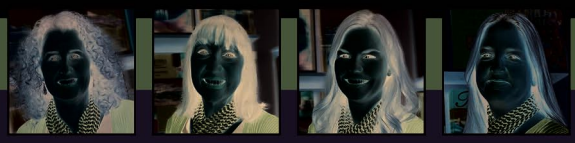

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Welcome to the Ufford PUNCH

From the Editor

SO picture this - you've got guests for the weekend, and after a couple of glasses of wine with Sunday lunch one of them suggests a walk around the neighbourhood. "Of course" you say, always ready to play the country squire though you can't really tell a pheasant from a Trafalgar Square pigeon, and off you set in your Le Chameau wellies. Pretty soon you wander away from the footpath and find yourself trampling across a field of green stuff while a man with a shotgun yells at you - "Oy! Get off my land!". Shame and exposure threaten. But - wait - you whip out your handy farm map of Ufford (see page 13), and cheerfully address the farmer by name. This confuses him long enough for you to retreat with your rural credibility intact. "He has a great sense of humour" you reassure your friends - "look, he's pretending to aim at us. This is where we pretend to run. We'll have such a laugh about it down the pub later".

Of course the Punch does not condone crop damage or the purchase of Le Chameau wellingtons, but we hope you'll find the map provides an insight into the patchwork of farms that overlay the village and its surroundings. Originally sketched out by David Findley, completed by James Foskett, then rendered ineptly in Photoshop by the editor, it's still a work in progress. Not valid for use in land disputes. Corrections or comments welcome.

Elsewhere we seem to have coincidentally adopted an aviation theme in this issue, with an of account of Zeppelins over Ufford in the First World war by Tim and a trip round the Parham Museum (a U.S Eighth Air Force airbase during the Second War) with Andy.

On page 19, we have an interview with Nick Apperley on his planned epic fundraising ride to raise money for MND charities. Your donations and support would be invaluable.

Kevin Young

Have you heard it on the PUNCHLINE?

Get the latest village news first via our digital newsletter 'PUNCHLine'.

If there is anything you want to broadcast, write your message and send it in Monday - Saturday for circulation to all our subscribers as soon as possible.

To subscribe, or broadcast news, email punchline@uffordpunch.org.uk

Cover picture © Ufford Punch

Ufford PUNCH May 2024

Deadline for submissions: 12th April 2024

UFFORD PUNCH NOTICEBOARD

UFFORD TENNIS CLUB OPEN COURT

April Saturday 6th 9am- 11am and Sunday 7th 2pm – 4pm

As we look to start the new season on 1st April we would like to attract a few more players to join us. Weather permitting on April Saturday 6th 9am - 11am and Sunday 7th 2pm – 4pm we plan to hold an open court. Anyone is welcome to come along and try hitting a few balls. Some of our members will be at the court with spare rackets for you to use. All we ask is that you have suitable footware (i.e trainers). Ideally we would like some younger players to ensure the future of the club.(Younger to us is under 75) Come along for 10 minutes or the full 2 hours .Can't make that weekend? Contact Chris Cage on 01394 461082 and arrange a time to suit you. Make 2024 the year you GIVE TENNIS A TRY.

Old Herbaceous

One night only in the Church Hall

Tickets for the play Old Herbaceous are now on sale at the White Lion pub, Ufford. The show will take place at St Mary's Church Hall, Ufford, on Saturday 27th April, starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £12 and are cash only from behind the bar. Alternatively, reserve your ticket by emailing andygardn@googlemail.com.

The doors open at 7pm and there will be a cash bar offering red and white wine, rose (for Clare), beer, scrumpy cider and hopefully, a special themed cocktail.

UPC Ufford Parish Council News

Ufford Emergency Plan – Could you help?

Being mindful of the serious flooding we experienced in parts of the village in October last year, and the devastating effect it had on a significant number of households, the Parish Council has decided that it would be hugely beneficial if we had an emergency plan in place, and have already started development work. We want to try and cover any emergency situation which could arise, and we know they can take many forms from house fires through to widespread power outages.

In putting together this plan we initially want to identify all the local skills and resources available to us and are therefore seeking volunteers who have skills that may prove vital in assisting in any given emergency. Particularly those with medical training and also those who have training with, and own specialist equipment, be it a tractor, four wheel drive vehicle, generators, chain saws etc.

Without doubt the more prepared we are the better the village will be able to cope with any emergency. If you feel you have the skills and/or equipment that could be helpful to us in putting this plan together and would like to help please contact Judi, the Parish Clerk at ufford.pc@hotmail.com or on 01394 411405.

Ufford Neighbourhood Plan – Have you had your say yet?

Thursday 14th March 2024 saw the launch of the first formal Consultation on the Draft Ufford Neighbourhood Plan. The Draft Plan can be found on the Ufford Website (https://ufford.suffolk.cloud/neighbourhood-plan/) along with the Comments Form and all supporting documentation.

Please take the opportunity to read the draft Plan and comment. This is the result of over 6,000 man hours work for the Steering Group, made up of just 9 village volunteers. The Plan sets out Policies that will shape the way Ufford is managed up until 2036. You have until 3rd May to comment and hard copies of the Plan can be found in the Church and the Community Hall.

Thank you Cllr. Mayhew

During February 2024 Steve Mayhew tendered his resignation from the Parish Council. Steve had served on the Council since May 2019 and had taken an active role in many projects over the following five years, most recently leading on the Better Broadband project for the village.

The Council would like to say a very big 'THANK YOU' to Steve for all his contributions to Council projects and we wish him all the best.

We've Looked at Clouds from all Sides Now ....

This winter has seen the largest number of weather-related articles ever recorded in the Punch. Andy Gardner takes a last look at the statistics (see, we weren't imagining it) before we move on

The British are renowned for liking a bit of weather gossip, so enjoy this Ufford rainfall data from John Colles.

Local resident John has just finished compiling the average rainfall for the village over the last 17-years.

His data reveals the wettest, driest and all-together strangest months for Ufford - with some surprising revelations.

John said: "I have been keeping weather records in Ufford for many years, but the recent exceptional weather has prompted me to look back and see how things have been changing.

"I have gone back over 17 years looking at rainfall since 2007 and here is a summary of some of the sometimes surprising features over this period."

The average rainfall in any one month is just over 50 mm, but the driest month on average is April, just 28 mm followed by September with 37 mm. The wettest month is December 74 mm closely followed by October with 70mm

Looking at each year as a whole, the average rainfall per year was 609 mm, the wettest year we had was 2012 with 859 mm, when we had a very wet December and also wet April and July.

2023 was the second wettest year with 806mm, I'm sure we all remember last October with 168 mm of rain, which was the wettest month I have ever recorded, a whole 15 mm more than the previous wettest month (December 2012), and nearly 2 ½ times the average for the month.

February had less than 2mm, the driest recorded by a long way, but that was soon put right, March was 111% above average and other very wet months were March, April, July and Aug, the other months that year were about average

This year 2024 started with a normal January, but February (104.67 mm) produced twice the average for the month and the rest of the year, well we'll have to wait to find out.

Roll on the summer drought!

THE UFFORD CROWN

13th Anniversary

On 29th April it will be thirteen years since we opened our doors. Since then we've loved being part of the village and are so thankful to everyone for their ongoing support, kindness and friendship! We look forward to many years to come!

Polly, Max and the Team Xx

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE UFFORD CROWN

Please do pop along and see us in April:

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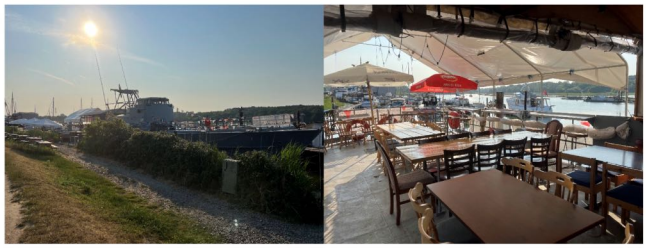

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Please note we are a walking/cycling destination; there is no parking in Melton Boatyard. Trains stop at Woodbridge and Melton for a wonderful one-way river walk.

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Parham Airfield honours the real life Masters of the Air

If you step out of Ufford and drive in any direction you are likely to come across a ghost from World War Two in the form of an abandoned airfield that once was home to the Mighty Eighth Air Force. The pitted runways and occasional refurbished control towers cannot convey the massive effort and sacrifice of the young American aircrews that left on a daily basis to bomb Nazi Germany in the knowledge that many would never return.

Perhaps the nearest we can get is the new Apple TV series Masters of the Air, which tells the story of the Bloody 100th, named because of its catastrophic losses, which was based at Thorpe Abbotts, South Norfolk. The nine episode series has been a hit worldwide and the knock on effect is about to be felt by Parham Airfield Museum, home to the 390th Bomb Group, which flew alongside the 100th in the 13th combat wing.

The museum, run by a 40 strong volunteer group, is just five miles from Ufford and opens on Sunday March 31. This season, it is about to get very busy with UK visitors being boosted by a strong contingent of Americans. In June, several

B-17 piloted by John G. Burke, who was shot down over Holland and taken prisoner in February 1944

hundred enthusiasts from the States will descend on the airfield over a weekend as part of a 80th Anniversary of D-Day & The Bomber War cruise tour organised by The National WWII Museum in New Orleans.

Peter Senior, chairperson of Parham museum, told the Punch: "We are amazed with the interest that the Masters of the Air series is already creating in the USAAF, especially those in the 13th combat wing, which includes us here at Parham.

"We are expecting it to be a very busy season and we have already noticed an increase in the number of people making enquiries about visiting - with many from abroad."

Between August 1943 and May 1945, the 390th Bomb Group flew 301 combat missions over Europe. They participated in many well-known bombing campaigns over Münster, Schweinfurt, and Berlin. The 390th flew the fabled B-17 Flying Fortress from Parham, which was officially known as Framlingham Station 153. In 1981, following a five-year restoration project, the original Control Tower was reopened as the museum.

The Human Cost

Abraham Elhai was just 23 when he died bailing out of his stricken B-17 on the 30th November 1944 after his plane took a direct flak hit.

The navigator was last seen attaching his parachute and preparing to bail out of the shattered and burned nose section of the bomber.

His body was found with his unopened parachute attached. He was originally buried as an unknown airman.

Abraham, who was Jewish, was finally listed as Killed in Action in 2019. He is the last KIA listed on the Parham memorial.

The buildings contain a wide range of memorabilia, including B-17 engines and instruments, decorated jackets and clothing, scale models, memories and photos and a comprehensive library.

Peter, 72, a former headmaster, who lives in Otley, joined the museum in 2016, initially making use of his long-forgotten

Volunteers at the Parham Airfield Museum outside the restored Control Tower.

woodworking skills. The volunteers at Parham are expected to be jack of all trades. He said: "We have Wednesday working parties out-of-season and many of us join in. When open, volunteers can work behind the scenes doing admin, help out in the cafe and we are lucky to have enough to meet-and-greet the public and to answer questions."

Peter Kindred, 78, has a special reason to volunteer at Parham. His father Percy owned and farmed much of the land requisitioned by the Air Ministry in 1942. He still lives nearby in the family farm and told the Punch: "Dad helped level the fields to get the airfield ready for the planes and saw the first B-17s fly into Parham in 1943. "Dad had a tremendous amount of admiration for the Americans. He was amazed how young they were and was very aware that on some of the disastrous raids, many did not come back."

His wife Kath told how the old tower used to store fertiliser for the farm before it was restored: "It was in a pretty bad state," she said. And she remembers: "Before email we used to find Americans driving around lost looking for the airfield. They didn't know where they were, but Percy used to look after them. They just wanted to see the airfield where a relative - maybe their dad - used to fly out of."

Former teacher Bob Skitch, 67, who taught chemistry and physics at Framlingham College for three decades, used to bring RAF cadets from the school to the airfield. He joined the volunteer staff in 2021 and said the museum relied on a steady stream of helpers: "Parham requires lots of volunteers to survive."

Martin Scripps, 75, a former plant manager based at the old USAAF base at Bentwaters, is in charge of maintenance and improvement projects. Over the winter, the museum completed a new exhibition called 'The Contribution of the African Americans to the USAAF.' Martin said: "My job is to select the projects for improvements or repairs and to purchase all the materials required. I then have to delegate the jobs based on each person's skill set. It's a never ending process."

Martin said he was moved by the response of visitors from the United States to Parham's numerous exhibits. He said: "The Americans are really pleased that we keep the memories alive of the sacrifice."

Museum archivist Jennie Smith, 62, from Woodbridge, has been working on putting personal stories to names of heroes.

The accountant works with museums in the US to fill in the details of personnel killed and source photographs. She said: "It is about keeping the memory alive. I call them my boys."

* Parham is looking for more volunteers and would like to hear from you. Email parhamairfield@yahoo.co.uk. Also, please contact if anyone has memories of the base affecting their family.

The museum is open on Sundays from March 31. In June, July, and August it is also open on Wednesdays. Opening times are 11am until either 4pm or 5pm. Entry is free.

Andy Gardner

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Our landscapes, our flora and fauna and our environment are under pressure as never before. Every day we read press reports of endangered species, loss of biodiversity and pollution of our rivers. It's easy to pass the blame on to others - new housing estates, farmers, water companies… the list is endless!

Wild about Ufford seeks to encourage us all to take small steps to increase biodiversity and to restore nature. This theme is being adopted in many local parishes such as Campsea Ashe and Wickham Market, sponsored by our local District Councillor, Sally Noble, who said *"We have lost almost half of biodiversity in the UK since the 70's and we are at risk of losing 1 in 6 of our wildlife species. Commercial farming methods, construction and of course the climate crisis have led to a huge decrease in habitat. We need to do all we can to help nature recover, no matter how big or how small, as individuals, we can all do something to help"*.

Rilla Forge, Chair of the Ufford Gardening Club told us "*No Mow May is great but it needs to be no mow June and July as well, cutting late July gives the flowers time to set seed and for the eggs of pollinators to hatch".*

Here in Ufford, we are bringing the Wild About theme to life by incorporating it into regular events in the village.

- Ufford Gardening Club Plant and Seed sale 18 May: plants and wild flower seeds for sale with advice on making your garden wilder.
- Family Day White Lion (date to be confirmed).
  Build your own bird/bat box, nature trail, which birds are in your garden.
- Summer Show 13 July
  Stands from local groups such as Suffolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Greenprint Forum

SO WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

Go wild! Set aside 10% of your garden or the verge outside your house for wild flowers. You don't need a big garden This could be an area of lawn or a border. Remove brambles, nettles and invasive plants then leave it alone and see what comes up. Don't cut your lawn until July, leave the 'green hay' for 2 weeks to allow the seeds to drop out, then rake off and cut as normal. Repeat the following year. Borders can be encouraged with wild flower seeds or plug plants.

Help the bugs and slugs. Plant your garden with bee and butterfly friendly plants like English lavender, verbena, salvia, foxgloves and honeysuckle.

- Use wildlife friendly pest control such as creating barriers for slugs and companion planting. Slugs and snails provide a delicious meal for birds, hedgehogs, toads and frogs.
- Try not to use artificial fertilisers but make your own leaf mould or compost. This encourages bugs and creepy crawlies.

Help nature by installing bird boxes, bat boxes and insect hotels in your garden. Encourage hedgehogs by leaving holes in your garden fence or install drain pipes to help hedgehogs to roam

Go native Plant native hedges; a mixed native hedge looks fantastic with species like hawthorn, beech, hazel, blackthorn, holly, hornbeam and dog rose. An evergreen alternative is to plant yew instead of invasive species like laurel or leylandii

WHITE LION PUB

Lower Street, Ufford

2024

Spring at the White Lion

Ufford Annual Car Rally - Saturday 6th April Starting 10am

Quiz Night - Tuesday 9th April 7pm Meal, Quiz 8pm

Quiz Night - Tuesday 23rd April 7pm Meal, Quiz 8pm

Open Mic Night - Thursday 25h April 7pm

Opening Times for April

Closed All Day Monday

Tuesday - Saturday - 12 noon-2:30pm 6-10pm

Sunday - 12 noon-9pm

For additional information or to book an event please contact Andy at 07538 600986

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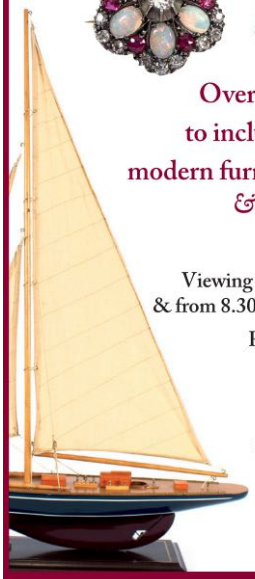

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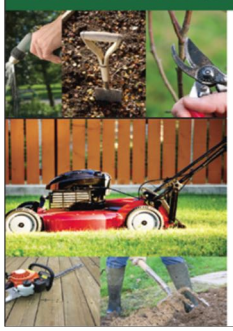

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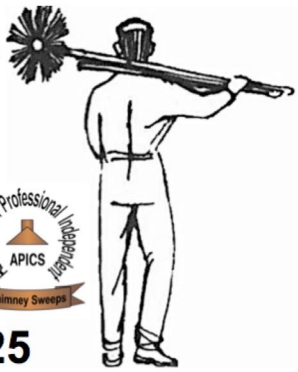

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THE PUNCH HANDY CUT OUT AND KEEP UFFORD FARM MAP

Nigel Rolfe specialises in combinable crops and sugar beet. All the land north of the A12 is heavy clay.

John Fleming has one of the last Dairy herds in Suffolk and also fattens store cattle on the marshes.

Graham Smith at Sink Farm has a suckler herd of cattle and fattens all the young stock for market.

James Foskett farms ---all the land on the map is for organic vegetable production including **William Notcutts**.

Ray Herring has cattle in East lane on part of his land.

Bill Warburg, **Sink Farm** and **Ray Herring** all rent some of their land out for conventional vegetable production because they have irrigation available.

Horrible Histories, or 'nothing much happens in Ufford'. Part 2. Zeppelins.

At 3am on 17th June 1917, the residents of Ufford were woken by what sounded like a distant thunderstorm.

Mary Cholmondeley, the famous author, was living at The Cottage (now known as Ufford House) and went downstairs in the dark. As the noise was got louder and louder and 'it seemed as if the trembling walls were no stronger than paper. The cottage shook and shook'. Up above, her house-guests spotted a huge Zeppelin lumbering heavily over them, throwing out its bombs.

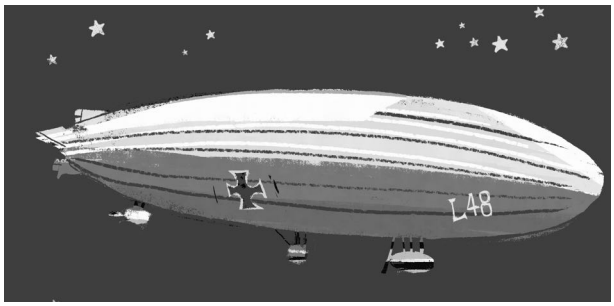
What they saw was in fact Zeppelin L48, commanded by Franz George Eichler, trying to make good its escape back to Germany after an aborted raid on London. At this stage it was suffering from a compass failure and was drifting slowly up the line of the A12 pursued by anti-aircraft fire and the Royal Flying Corps, who were based at Orford Ness. As it went it lobbed out its cargo of high explosives, which landed in the vicinity of Kesgrave, Martlesham and Wickham Market.

Over the previous few years, East Suffolk has got used to Zeppelin raids. Typically, the airships would come in over the North Sea at night and drop bombs fairly indiscriminately (or at least inaccurately) on their targets. They usually flew high enough to avoid air defences, and there was little warning of their arrival. At best, boy scouts sounded the alarm by blowing bugles and policemen on bicycles whirled rattles. The advice for the public seems to have been to go indoors and hide under a table.

In Ufford, though, we are made of sterner stuff, and it seems that everyone raced outside. Mary described how 'our ears were deafened by the sharp rat-tat-tat of the machine guns, and by our own frantic anti-aircraft fire… a neighbour's garden was being liberally plastered by our own shrapnel'. Later on, the airship changed course again and made a second pass over Ufford, this time in the direction of the sea, pursued by the Royal Flying Corps.

On board the airship, however, things were looking bleak. They were losing height, their navigation was failing, and they were sitting underneath more than a million cubic feet of highly combustible hydrogen. Worse still, dawn was coming, robbing them of the cover of darkness, and the Royal Flying Corps was closing in.

Eventually, further up the coast, they suffered a catastrophic blow as rounds fired by an aircraft crewed by Lieutenant F Holder and Sergeant S Ashby hit them and started a fire near the tail.



Back in Ufford, all this was visible on the horizon. Mary describes how quickly the fire stretched and 'leaped into a great flame. The long body of the Zeppelin was seen to be alight from end to end'. A cheer went up.

As the fire spread, the crew suffered a terrifying 13-minute descent. One of the survivors described how 'the gas bags were burning away like mad – a sound…like greasy paper… when you throw it on the fire'. As the airship hit the ground at Holly Tree Farm near Theberton 'a chaotic jumble of girders, bracing wires, benzene tanks and metal fittings [came] down on my head. My fur coat was burning on my back. I was imprisoned in a cage, the bars of which were a glowing red-hot mass'. Of the sixteen crew, he was one of only three to survive as they tried to jump clear of the gondolas on impact. There is a memorial to the dead in Theberton Churchyard inscribed 'Who art thou that judgest another man's servant?'.

Back in Ufford Mary noted how all was now silent. 'So windless was the air that the smoke remained like some solemn upraised finger pointing from earth to heaven. No one stirred. No one spoke. The light grew. And, in the silence of our awed hearts, a cuckoo near at hand began calling gently to the new day, coming up in peace out of the shining east'.

Tim Mumford

New Punch Innovations Upset Ufford Residents

Though many welcome recent improvements to the Punch, some are upset by one particular change - the inclusion of the ages of interviewees in Punch articles. "This may be acceptable in London but it's not appropriate for a village. It's something you just don't discuss, like property values and political views" said 70-year-old pro-Brexit Tory Susan, interviewed in the kitchen of her £800,000 home.

If some are affronted, others say the new policy has caused them real distress. Tom, 69, said "I'm a member of several local online dating sites where I've always claimed to be in my late 50's. Now people know my real age the responses have dried up. What am I supposed to do now? Date women my own age?"

Don, with his sophisticated manner and stylish dress sense, easily passes as a fresh-faced 30-year-old. Since Punch outed him as a teenager he has been banned from the **Continued >**

> Continued White Lion. . “My social life is ruined. Now I’m reduced to sitting in the beer garden with a hip flask and a Diet Coke”

Some say they will refuse to reveal their age, but Punch reporters are notoriously aggressive. Said one villager, 62: “When I refused, the reporter said he had ‘a mate down the council’ who could obtain all my personal details. ‘And you can kiss goodbye to your bus pass’ he told me”.

At an emergency meeting, the Punch committee discussed alternatives, including the use of less specific euphemisms such as nipper, teen, and old codger, but no consensus had been reached as we went to press.

Kevin Young (over 50)

And Away! Operation Mousetrap Frees Well-fed Marcel

Marcel

The problems of mice in a rural community are hardly new, but for townies unused to the country life, it can prove a challenge. We were forced to launch Operation Mousetrap recently after a mouse escaped from a box and made its life in our cottage. Unfortunately, the pantry had not been rodent proofed and said mouse enjoyed a life of luxury and excess for a month.

Exasperated, a friend lent us some humane traps and three days later our whiskered friend was caught. During his time inside the property, Amanda had named him Marcel. Don't even ask.

You'll be pleased to know he was released in a field way outside Ufford and scampered away.

Andy Gardner

An Owl Writes ….

O O
V
( )

Hey guys, heads up (or heads rotated 180 degrees anyway) to the local strigiform community. There’s a great new delivery service in town! The other night I was hanging out in a field outside Ufford, a bit hung-over and just thinking that I really wasn’t feeling up for a night of hunting. And at that very moment these people pull up with this wire container, flip open the lid and drop a fresh live mouse right in front of me. Talk about service! Maybe this one was just a promotional giveaway but if anyone knows how to place a regular order, give me a hoot.

Editor

Nature Notes by Chris Reading

As a newcomer to Suffolk, one of the differences I have noticed, compared with our previous home in Wales, is the abundance of raptors.

The word raptor is derived from the Latin *raptare,* meaning to seize violently and drag away, which is exactly what they do. Common raptors in East Anglia are Buzzards, Kestrels and Sparrowhawks. But you might see a Goshawk, a Hobby, or a Red Kite. For this article I shall focus on Kestrels. Although widespread in the UK, their numbers have declined by about 40% since 1995, probably because of changes in farming. They are on the Amber List for conservation, but the good news is they seem to be thriving in this neck of the woods.

Almost every time Pam and I go for a drive, we see a Kestrel, with its pointed wings and long tail, hovering by the roadside or perched on a fencepost. They eat mostly small mammals: particularly voles, but also birds, worms, and insects. They have three superpowers to help them catch their prey: they can hover, they have exceptional eyesight, and they can see ultraviolet light. This enables them to spot urine trails left by rodents on the ground, which helps them locate their prey. An archaic name for the Kestrel was Windhover. An adult Kestrel must eat the equivalent of four to eight voles a day to stay healthy, depending on the time of year. They can spot a vole at 50 metres. Their hunting technique is to hover into a slight headwind at a height of between 10 to 20 metres, then swoop down on their prey. A beautiful sight to witness – unless you

happen to be a vole.

Nature Knowledge – Was the Red Kite named after the toy or was it the other way round? Answer: the toy was named after the bird.

KESTREL PHOTO BY JOHN RICHARDSON

Ufford Volunteers - the Pick of the Litter

A shout out to the 11 Ufford residents who took part in this year's Annual Litter Pick on Saturday 16th March, some pictured below. We met on a gloriously sunny day at the Recreation Ground and after a Health and Safety sermon from the Parish Clerk (*apparently she didn't want any of us run over*!) we headed off to our given destinations.

As usual there was plenty of litter to collect, especially along roads away from houses. The slip roads off the A12 are always bad and six sacks of litter were collected from these alone! The usual multiple cans of cider were collected and even a pushchair.

Above: So happy together - 8 volunteers (one in the witness protection program). Left: Cathy Mutton and her 2 bags full

The morning was rounded off with a cup of tea and a piece of cake back at the Community Hall.

It was remarked this year that there was considerably less litter to collect on roads where there were dwellings. This was thought to be as a direct result of a number of people who do carry out regular picks in their area. "Thanks guys", you really did make our job easier this year 😊

The Ufford Almshouses – one down, one to go!

Friday 1st March 2024 saw a milestone reached in the refurbishment of the Ufford Almshouses in Church Lane. Mrs Olive Cox, a resident of the Almshouses for over 25 years, moved from number 2 to number 2A *(is this the world's shortest house move we ask?)*

Over the past 7 months the Almshouses have undergone major refurbishment. A new roof covering, with additional insulation, will help to keep the homes nice and cozy. An extension at the rear will provide a large Living Room, allowing the old living area to become the new Kitchen. Total reconfiguration inside has also allowed a new downstairs Shower Room and a downstairs Bedroom, if required. In addition, under-floor heating has been installed and electrics and plumbing have been renewed, ensuring the homes are fit for 21st century living.

Outside there has also been work, to install a new patio and path and place a new cap on the old Well. With 2A being unoccupied, internal works were complete there first, allowing Mrs Cox to move to 2A, whilst work to number 2 is concluded. The work has been completed by local builder Paul Rust and his team, under the guidance of local architect

Tim Buxbaum and the watchful eye of the Trustees of the Non-Ecclesiastical Charities.

When all work is complete, we will be holding an open day, this will be in late May or early June; please watch out for news on the PUNCHLine. And, from June we will be welcoming a new resident, Mr Ray Whitehand, we will have an interview with him for an article later in the year.

Judi Hallett

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Nick's Fundraising for MND Continues Apace

Having been involved in charity cycle rides for many years - the 15-mile Eve Appeal to name just one - Nick's latest venture will be a 444-mile bike ride from Suffolk to Sennen in Cornwall in aid of Motor Neurone Disease.

Alex Bennett catches up with Nick and Jill to hear all about their plans:

Alex: *Tell me about this fundraising event and why Cornwall?*

Nick: I was brought up in Cornwall, so it holds many happy memories of my childhood and subsequent family holidays there with Jill and our boys.

Alex: *Where will you start your ride?*

Nick: We shall set off around 09:00 from The Ufford Crown on Sunday 9th June, with overnight stops in Saffron Walden, High Wycombe, Marlborough, Langport, Exeter, St Austell and finally Sennen on Saturday 15th June.

Alex: *How many do you expect to set off with you?*

Nick: We hope there will be around 50 cyclists together with our support car driven by our friend, William Catchpole.

Alex: *Will this be an arduous route for you to undertake?*

Nick: The route has been meticulously planned so that we keep to minor roads, almost entirely avoiding trunk roads and the heavy traffic.
I intend to participate daily, most probably at the beginning and/or end of the day.

Alex: *Jill, will you be travelling with Nick?*

Jill: Yes, I shall be driving down, and we are delighted that our sons, Joshua and Harry, will be joining the cycle.

Alex: *Is there any practical help that we in Ufford can give?*

Jill:. I am planning to hand out energy bars in the form of baked biscuits and cakes to give a quick energy boost to the riders on route, so if anyone can provide some for the journey it would be great. We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the Ufford villagers for their tremendous ongoing support.

Alex: *How can we donate?*

Nick & Jill: We have set up a charity page. This supports three charities - MND Association, Challenging MND and MyName'5 Doddie Foundation.

https://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/1930/nicks-fundraising/

If you would like to support myself, Jill and our

family to enable us to live out the best and fullest life possible, then please go to:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/for-Nick-and-family-living-with-MND

For the route map:

https://www.strava.com/routes/3192461524675498844

If anyone would like more details and/or to take part in the charity cycle, please email Nick at nickdomorein24@gmail.com

Jenny and Norman with Nick and his bike

Jenny and Norman Finch hosted a coffee morning at their home in Ufford Place in support of the Apperleys dealing with MND

A whopping £860 was raised with more money coming in as we went to print.

Alan Stanley Collier

21st January 1935 - 26th February 2024

Alan Collier of The Gables, Ufford Place, was well known to many in Ufford through his daily walking expeditions round the village when he would stop and chat to everyone he met, but he sadly died at the end of February at the age of 88; he is survived by his widow Margaret .

Alan was born in Stratford, London, and during the war years went to primary school at Great Totham, Essex. Margaret was at the same school and remembers Alan as a noisy boy she did not want to be near. Both then went to the local secondary school before Alan, who loved woodwork set up a carpentry business with his father and younger brother building wooden bodies for lorries – Collier Truck Builders Limited. He met Margaret again when she got a job at the company and inevitably they became a couple. Alan spent his entire career running the business and then on a visit to a friend who lived in Melton Park was really taken with the area, so much that the couple bought a house in Ufford Place for their retirement.

Alan and Margaret both enjoyed playing golf but being competitive joined separate clubs! Alan loved golfing holidays in South Africa, the USA and the Caribbean always staying in the best hotels where he could indulge in his other love of fine dining.

The funeral is at St Mary's Church on Friday 19th April at 11am with a Reception afterwards at The White Lion. Please email mark@crisell.co.uk if you will be at The White Lion.

Dorothy Wymark

14th November 1926 - 4th March 2024

Ufford is very sad to hear of the recent death at 97 years old of Dorothy Wymark of Lower Street.

Dorothy come to live here in 1976 when she bought St Anne's which was originally three small five hundred year old cottages – only two when Dorothy arrived it but she later bought the one next door and renovated them into the beautiful home that it is today.

Dorothy was born in Cheshire and grew up in Thorndon Hall, Essex, where the family had lived for generations; she married and had a son and two daughters – Stephen and his family are in Bromeswell; Jane Copeland lives in Texas and Pat Wymark in Woodbridge.

Dorothy soon became a huge part of village life – with Angela McNeilage she started the Parish Newsletter which morphed into The Ufford Punch in 1997 – she was a founder member of The Ufford Players which is still going strong today – Secretary of the Ufford W.I. - and a magnet for wildlife. Animals and birds all found their way to Dorothy's door; Mrs Chicken roosted in the “Chicken Hilton” safe up in a tree; a one legged seagull, “Siggie”; cats and dogs from all the neighbouring houses; a jackdaw and hedgehogs. All were welcome and given treats.

Dorothy travelled extensively with Jane, an advisor to Hewlett-Packard when she attended their international conferences in Vienna, Amsterdam, New Orleans, San Diego. A gift of Revett's Sausages caused a furore at US Customs when Dorothy visited Jane in Texas.

Recently Dorothy was in respite care at The Grove in Woodbridge and plans were underway for her to return home in April. A Memorial Service will be held at St Mary's Church on Friday 26th April at 1.45pm followed by a Reception at The White Lion.

Please advise Jane by email if you will be at the Reception – jane@apinet.com

The last photo of Dorothy taken on 13th Feb when she paid a visit to her home in Lower Road.

Ufford Gardening Club News

In February we welcomed Chris Reeve, otherwise known as "The Helmingham Wild Man" to talk about biodiversity at Helmingham Hall. Chris is deputy head gardener and has worked there for over 25 years and has a special interest in entomology (bugs to you and me) and how flora and fauna can work together in harmony to create a balanced horticultural environment. He has a degree in Environmental Landscape Management and has written a landscape diary for The Journal of Professional Gardeners since 2007.

His defining moment at the garden was when he was asked to spray the roses but secretly hid and ignored the order while watching the ladybird predators do the work for him, thereby persuading the head gardener that there was no need anymore for this unfriendly act. After that, his interest was piqued and he set about learning how and why the whole estate worked so well for the different forms of wildlife living in harmony with one another; he realised that it was because it incorporates so many different habitats and has done for many hundreds of years, relatively undisturbed by such activities as intensive farming. The gardens themselves are surrounded by a 400 acre deer park where the grazing animals produce a "hell of a lot of poo" - a splendid food source for invertebrates and fungi. Additionally there are wet meadows for wild flowers, watercourses such as steep banked moats, built environments, standing dead wood, and live mature trees, (some very ancient), plus cultivated flower and produce gardens. A mature oak, he pointed out, can host 2300 species including over 300 fungi. Many of the resident species have been there for a long time producing a 'mosaic' habitat where all the areas interlink and add diversity. He has recorded 825 species in two years for his popular Instagram account and archive (Chris@helming hamwildman) and there are eight

species of bat whose numbers have been healthily maintained.

Chris illustrated the latter part of his talk with the most amazing and rare insects that he has discovered in the gardens.

He kindly donated his fee to the St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich where he is well known for fundraising.

Ros Conway

Major Vincent Reginald Barry Hook

2nd May 1926 to 3rd March 2024 (Aged 97)

Born in Bombay (Mumbai) to an Army engineer, his wife and three siblings.
After a career in the Army - RASC then Royal Corps of Transport - he retired as a Major.
Vincent, Patricia and Baloo the dog came to Hill House in Lower Ufford and upon Patricia's death he moved to Vespers in The Avenue. After mum's sad departure he started a "singles club " for people in the same situation which still thrives today.
He came to stay with my wife June and me in Clopton when he needed care; even though we had a touching ceremony where he handed me the reins, he stayed "the Major " until the end
A devout Catholic with 3 children - Michael, Wendy and Barbara - and 7 grandchildren, he will be sorely missed. He died peacefully in his bed with no pain and his family around him.

Michael Hook

April's gardening notes from local horticulturist Nikk Slowey FdSc Hort, Lecturer in Horticulture at Suffolk Rural. Along with her husband Christian they are Honeysuckle Horticulture

"'There are no days in the whole round year more delicious than those which often come to us in the latter half of April... The sun trembles in his own soft rays... The grass in the meadow seems all to have grown green since yesterday. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, "April Days," 1861

Spring blossom abounds and as sunshine and showers make the grass grow lush and green, our attention turns back to lawn care after the winter rest. It's an exciting month, with indoor-sown seeds well into growth, and it's also time to start sowing outdoors - just keep an eye out for any last minute frosts.

Jobs for the ornamental garden

- Direct sow hardy annuals such as marigolds, poppies and nigella straight into the flower border
- Begin to stake perennials such as hollyhocks, echinacea and delphiniums to prevent damage from wind and rain later in the season.
- Keep on top of the weeds. The easiest way to do this is to run a sharp hoe over the soil surface on dry days - the weeds will wilt and die off super quickly.
- Tie climbing and rambling roses into their supports now whilst they are easy to access.
- Now is the time to pot up Dahlia tubers. Keep undercover until after the last frost when they can be planted outside.
- Finish planting other summer flowering bulbs such as gladioli, acidanthera, lilies and crocosmia straight into the border.
- Plant sweet peas out into the garden. They need a good, strong support to climb up - hazel and willow make perfect teepees.
- Plant up hanging baskets and large containers but keep them undercover until the threat of frost has passed.

Jobs for the kitchen garden

- Harvest asparagus spears when they're no more than 18 cm tall.
- Thin carrot seedlings to achieve good-sized carrots; do this in the evening when fewer carrot flies are around.
- Begin regular feeding of citrus with a specialist citrus feed.
- Sow tender crops - tomatoes, courgettes, sweetcorn, pumpkins, French and runner beans undercover.
- Plant tomatoes, chili, sweet peppers and cucumbers into the greenhouse.

- Plant maincop potatoes giving them a good feed in the planting hole.
- Direct sow leafy greens, roots and salads such as chard, spinach, carrots, beetroot, lettuce, radish into the vegetable garden.
- Direct sow chives, coriander, dill, fennel, mizuna and rocket where they are to grow.
- Mulch soft fruit with compost or manure to feed the soil and retain moisture.

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UFFORD DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

EVENTS

6th April	White Lion Car Rally 11am	
8th and 22nd April	Friends of Parklands Wood working party 9am	UCH
9th - 23rd April	White Lion pub quiz 7pm (first question 8 pm)	
10th April	Ufford Coffee Morning 10-12am	UCH
4th, 18th, 25th April	Happy Babies 9:30-10:30am, 10:45-11:45am	UCH
16th April	Ufford Parish Council meeting 7pm	UCH
24th April	Gardening Club meeting 7:30pm	UCH
25th April	White Lion open mic 7:00pm	
27th April	Old Herbaceous one-man show 7:30pm	SMPH

REGULAR CLASSES AND CLUBS

Mondays 2.15pm	Tai Chi Classes	UCH
Tuesdays 2.00pm	Carpet Bowls	UCH
Monday & Friday 5.00pm	Tennis Club	
	Open Court 6th April (9-11am) & 7th April (2-4 pm)	

BRIDGE CLUBS

Friendly Bridge Club
Mondays 6.30pm **UCH**

U2 Friendly Bridge Club
Wed 10th & 24th April 1.45pm **UCH**

WHERE?

SMPH St Mary's Parish Hall, Church Lane

UCH Ufford Community Hall, The Avenue

The PUNCH Directory

Schedule of events and classes are on the diary dates above

Boules (by tennis court)
2pm Tuesdays, turn up and play

Bridge Classes
Mike Fisher
www.mikefisherbridge.com

Carpet Bowls
Di Fulcher 01394 460551

Community Hall
Bookings.uch@gmail.com

Cycle Club
Stephen Thurlow 01394 460770

Deben Probus Club
John Hickling 01728 746322
johnhickling@uwclub.net

Friends of Ufford Woods
Mike Hawthorne 01394 420241

Happy Babies
hello@happy-babies.co.uk

Helping Ufford Group (HUG)
Hotline: 07595 970139
helpinguffordgroup@gmail.com

Parish Council and website
Clerk: Judi Hallett
01394 411405 / 07739 411927
www.ufford.suffolk.cloud

Parish Church Committee
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

PUNCHLine
Lyn Taylor 01394 460253
PUNCHline@uffordpunch.org.uk

St Mary's Parish Hall
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

Tennis Club
Chris Cage 01394 461082

U2 Friendly Bridge Club
Adrian Smith 01394 461179

Ufford Art History Group
Jenny Searle 01394 460317

Ufford Arts Festival
Jeremy Eyres 07739 330398

Ufford Basketball Club
Daniel Metz
uffordbasketball@gmail.com

Ufford Friendly Bridge Club
Lyn Taylor 01394 460253

Ufford Gardening Club
Sheila Creswick 01394 547658
sheila@creswick.uk
www.uffordgardeningclub.org.uk

Ufford Players Theatre
Jackie Wilks 01473 333167

Ufford Tai-Chi
Ray Norris 01394 383076
www.suffolktaichiacademy.uk

Ufford PUNCH
Nicky Scott 01394 460186
www.uffordpunch.org.uk

ST MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION, UFFORD

(United Benefice with St Andrew's Church, Melton)

Rector of Melton & Ufford Ufford: Revd Paul Hambling
Church Office, St Andrew's Church, Station Road,
Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1PX T: 01394 387491

Church Wardens of Ufford:
Mrs Karen Eyres T: 01394 460455
Mr David Perfect T: 01394 460363

'It's good to talk'. 'Pop round for a chat'. 'We do like a good jaw'.

Most of us enjoy talking with our loved ones, our family and our friends, talking and listening can bring joy and companionship. When I chat with my family on the 'phone it always brings me joy, and keeps me up to date with family goings on.

Not all of our conversations are easy, it might be that we have to give bad news, or we may have to have what I have heard called the 9am telephone call when perhaps we have to have a conversation we'd rather not have.

In a world where a thirst for power and dominance appears to be more important, sitting down and talking, and listening in a mutual respectful environment seems to me to be the most productive way.

From 9th-19th May the Archbishop of Canterbury has invited a time of prayer in a time he has called 'Thy Kingdom come'. Prayer is talking to God, being open and honest with him, and being aware of his love for us all. Please go to our website in the coming weeks to look at for times and events of prayer for 'Thy Kingdom come'.
Or visit the website: www.thykingdomcome.global.

My prayer each day is for peace and unity, love tolerance and respect.

Peace to you all.
Fr. Paul

At this time when many people are suffering from rising food prices and increasing costs the "little pantry" and food banks are needed more than ever. Their supplies and donations have decreased and so need our help. When you are shopping if you feel able to buy a little extra the collection box is once again in church for your donations.

Worship at Ufford & Melton

Everyone welcome at Services

April

Sun 7th EASTER 2 Low Sunday
08.00 Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

Sun 14th EASTER 3
08.00 Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 Eucharist at Melton

Sun 21st EASTER 4
08.00 Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
with APCM in the service
10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

Sun 28th EASTER 5
08.00 Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 am Eucharist at Melton
with APCM in the service

Please check the church website for updates and the church calendar

LIVE CHURCH CALENDAR ON THE WEB SITE
www.uffordchurch.org

Food Banks - donations welcome to the 'Little Pantry' at St Andrew's Church, Melton and Collection Box at Ufford Church. Thank you.

Jenny Searle

Online prayer resources:

https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/ https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer

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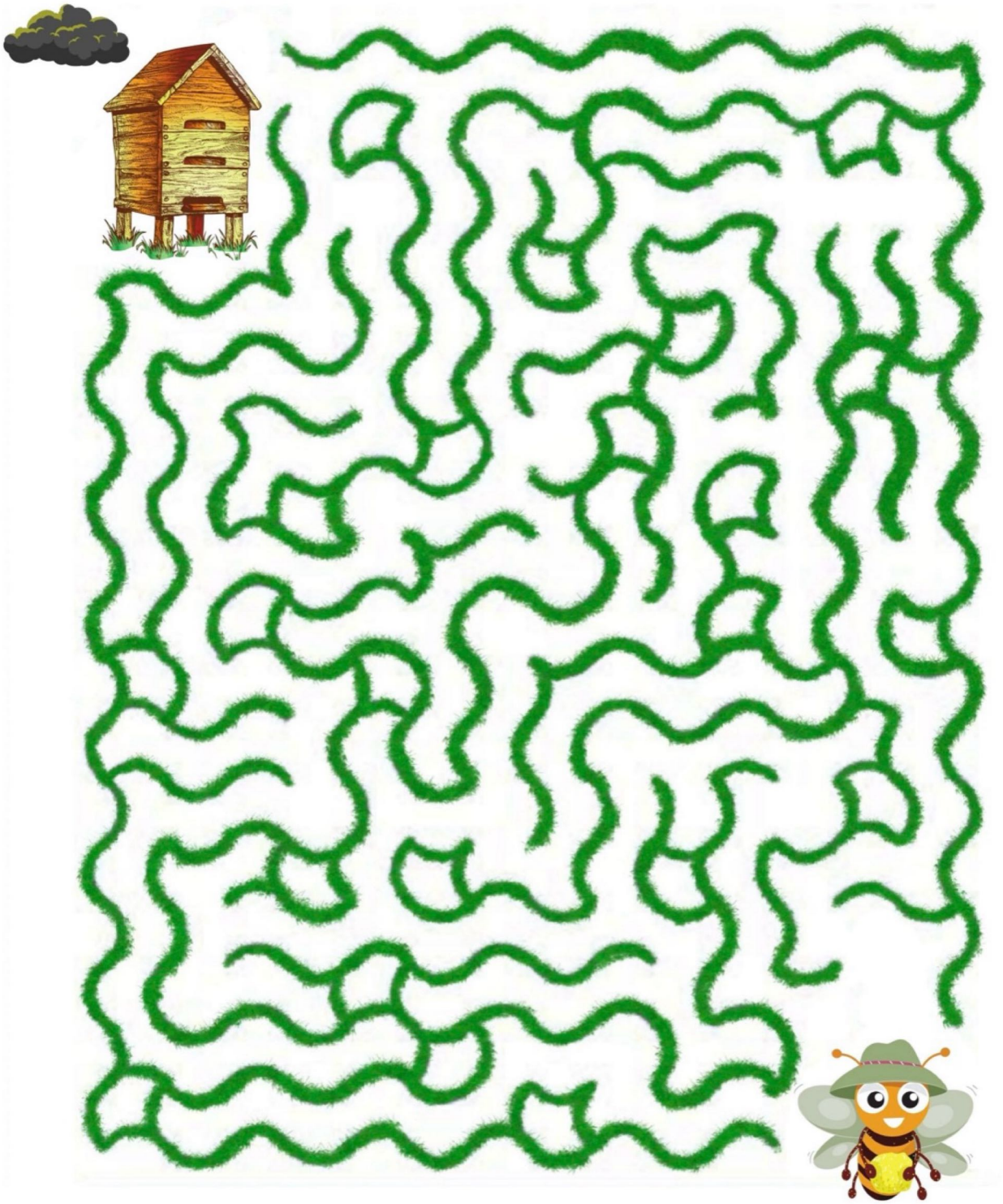
KIDZONE

BERTIE BEE IS LOST!

PLEASE HELP HIM FIND HIS WAY BACK TO THE HIVE BEFORE IT RAINS!



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